

CURRICULUM ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 7

--CORRECTIONS TO FIRE BEHAVIOR COURSES S-290, 390, AND 490--

BACKGROUND:

The new S-290, 390, and 490 courses were published in 1993 and early 1994. Following publication, there were a number of errors identified. In February 1994, Training Working Team members were alerted to these errors and corrected pages were provided for distribution to agencies and to the Publication Management System (PMS).

STATUS:

Based on the new process for correcting materials published in PMS (see cover memorandum), we have reassessed the errors in the fire behavior courses and determined that no errata sheet is necessary for any of the three courses. Corrected pages, having already been prepared, should be placed in the product masters and the revised masters should be used in the next printing. A new certification will be necessary and the cover will be changed to reflect the new date.

Based on the above determination, the masters have been requested from PMS so that corrections can be made. The Standards Office will perform an edit on the new pages and determine if any additional action is necessary for certification of the revised product.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Chairman sign the new certification statement when presented by the Standards Office. New masters will be submitted to PMS for use in the next printing.

approved 6/15/94
George H. Martin
Chair, NWCG TWT

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 8

--HELISPOT MANAGER JOB AID J-272--

BACKGROUND:

The approved curriculum identifies a Helispot Manager Job Aid (J-272) as suggested training to support the position of helicopter crewmember. The Interagency Helicopter Training Guide S-217 is required training for this same position.

CURRENT STATUS:

A joint development workshop is currently planned for March 27 - 31 to begin development of all of the air courses. During analysis of development requirements for these courses and job aids, the development project leaders for the air courses have determined that J-272 is not necessary. All training necessary for the helicopter crewmember, including the management of helispots, is included in S-217. There are also job aids, in the form of checklists, in the NWCG Fireline Handbook and in the Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (IHOG).

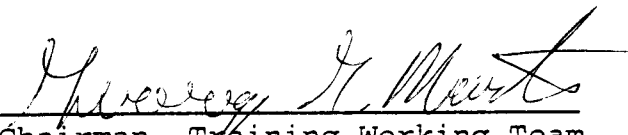
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend that the Helispot Manager Job Aid J-272 not be developed. Approval of the Training Working Team is needed by March 1 so that development efforts and resources can be reallocated.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Upon approval of this recommendation, the NIFC Division of Training will terminate development of J-272. SMEs and funding assigned to J-272 will be reallocated to other development projects for which they are qualified or notified that they will not be needed.
2. The Training Working Team will need to coordinate this action with the ICSWT so that it will be reflected in the scheduled update of 310-1.

APPROVED:


Chairman, Training Working Team

2/13/95
Date

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 9
--MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION COURSES S-201/301/401--

BACKGROUND:

Curriculum Issue Paper Number 3 dealt with title changes to these courses. This issue paper (Number 9) deals with concerns regarding presentation times for these courses and with a development scheduling change for completion of S-401.

Completion and publication of all three courses were initially planned for late FY 94. Development was delayed due to a late start and the 1994 fire season which resulted in the cancellation of reviews and several test courses. NIFC was able to have the funding reallocated by BLM for FY 95.

The course development steering committee met February 7 - 8, 1995 at NIFC to review the development status of the courses and determine action on NIFC and Training Working Team concerns regarding presentation times of S-201 and S-301 and curriculum placement of S-401. Results of the meeting, as they pertain to each course, are described below.

CURRENT STATUS:

S-201 Supervisory Concepts and Techniques --

This course has received a formative test and field review. Due to lack of word processing, the review product was rough but an edit has now been performed and corrections are being incorporated. The 30 hours of classroom presentation time plus 4 - 6 hours prestudy is a more significant concern. This is considerably more than approved by NWCG in the curriculum proposal (8 hours) and more than agencies would be able to manage at the local level for seasonal employees. This concern had been discussed with members of the Training Working Team and it was agreed that, while 16 hours may be acceptable, 30 plus hours would not be acceptable. In addition, there appeared to be some overlap between S-201 and S-301.

The Steering Committee decided to reduce the S-201 course to 16 classroom hours plus a small prestudy element (approx. 2 hours). An additional 1-hour unit will be left in the course but will be optional. A listing of instructional units showing reductions in presentation times is attached. Revision is currently underway and at least one more test course will be required. Development should be completed by October 1995.

S-301 Leadership and Organization Development --

This course has received a formative test and field review. Materials are of good quality and design proved effective in

the test course. Although there are some concerns with expanded presentation time (32 hours as designed vs 16 hours as approved by NWCG), it was generally felt that the presentation level (region/state) and target group (unit leader level; probably permanent employees) could support a course of this length. As in S-201, this also had been verified through prior discussion with Training Working Team members. The concern with overlap between S-201 and S-301 was resolved with the revisions made to S-201. S-301 will build upon, but will not duplicate, instruction in S-201.

The steering committee decided to leave S-301 as is. A summative test will be required. Development should be completed in FY 95.

S-401 Advanced Management Concepts --

This course has been developed in draft, however field review and testing has not occurred. There is a significant concern that the instruction in this course should remain part of S-420 where it traditionally has been. The fact that all positions for which S-401 is suggested training also take S-420 supports having a single course. The contractor's (Halsey/Vance) proposal was for the advanced management and team building to be in S-401 and that S-401 be a prerequisite to S-420 which would only be the simulation exercise. The contractors also recommended that S-401 and S-420 be taught together.

The steering committee felt that leaving advanced management and team building a part of S-420 and deleting S-401 from the curriculum may be valid; however, the decision would best be made in relation to development of S-420. After further discussion, NIFC agrees and is recommending rescheduling of S-401 to coincide with development of S-420 (FY 1999 - 2000). All existing materials will be retained for use at that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group recommends that the Training Working Team:

1. Approve actions by the steering committee to:
 - a. Reduce S-201 to 16 classroom hours of core instruction plus a small prestudy element. An additional unit of approximately 1 hour will remain in the course but will be optional. Development will be completed in FY 95.
 - b. Proceed with development and publication of S-301 as a 32 hour course. Development will be completed in FY 95.

2. Approve rescheduling of S-401 to coincide with development of S-420. A recommendation to delete S-401 from the curriculum may be made at that time, if appropriate.

APPROVED:

Chairman, Training Working Team

Date

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 10

--HELICOPTER COORDINATOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS--

BACKGROUND:

The approved curriculum identifies a job aid (J-374) to support the position of Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO), but provides for an S course if the development group determines that a course is necessary.

CURRENT STATUS:

The development group developed a task book for this position. The task book had not been developed previously due to the non-availability of qualified personnel and limited use of this position. Use of this position has increased over the past five years and qualified personnel were available at this workshop. Tasking showed that the HLCO job is very similar to the Air Tactical Group Supervisor job, but is focused specifically toward the tactical coordination of helicopters.

Based on detailed analysis, the development group determined that a job aid will not provide the skills necessary for this position. Such skills include traffic patterns and air traffic control, mountain flying safety, tactical use of retardant, and coordination with fixed wing aircraft. A course specifically for the HLCO is not necessary, however, because these same skills will be taught in Air Tactical Group Supervisor S-378.

The development group also determined that the existing operations experience required of the HLCO position (FFT1) is not adequate. The group recommends that the prerequisite qualifications for HLCO include a requirement that the individual be qualified as a Task Force Leader (TFLD) and that suggested training include Division Group Supervisor S-339. The following supports this recommendation:

A helicopter coordinator is required to set priorities on the tactical use of helicopters used on multiple division incidents and wildland urban interface situations. Helicopters are among the most complex and expensive fire fighting resources. The tactics and safety issues related to utilization of this resource in the situations described require a minimum qualification of Task Force Leader.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group agrees with the recommendations of the development group that:

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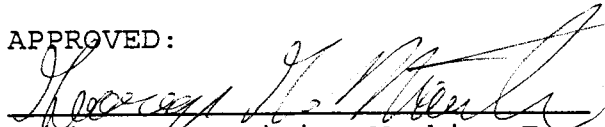
1. The Helicopter Coordinator Job Aid J-374 should not be developed.
2. That Air Tactical Group Supervisor S-378 contains the necessary skills training for the Helicopter Coordinator and should be required training for this position.
3. That the level of operations experience for the HLCO position should be increased to TFLD.

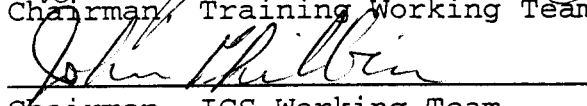
Approval of the Training and ICS Working Teams is needed by May 15, 1995, so that development can continue without interruption.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Upon approval of this recommendation, the NIFC Fire and Aviation Training Support Group will terminate development of J-374. SMEs and development funding assigned to J-374 will be reallocated to S-378.
2. The ICS Working Team will need to make appropriate changes to the qualification system during the revision of 310-1.

APPROVED:


Chairman, Training Working Team


Chairman, ICS Working Team

1/29/96
Date

1-29-96
Date

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 11

--HELIBASE MANAGER TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS--

BACKGROUND:

In the design of the Qualifications and Training Systems, the position of helibase manager was generally equated to other manager positions in the ICS organization. Training for these positions was organizationally set at the 200 level. Specifically, Helibase Manager 2 (HEB2) is currently required to take Helibase Manager S-271. There is no additional training requirement for Helibase Manager 1 (HEB1). Prerequisite training FOR HEB2 (both suggested and required) is associated with the prerequisite position qualifications of Helicopter Manager (HEMG), Helicopter Crewmember (HECM), and Advanced Firefighter/Squad Boss (FFT1). This includes Supervisory Concepts and Techniques S-201 and ICS training at the I-200 level.

CURRENT STATUS:

Based on a detailed analysis of the helibase manager position, the development group believes that this position more closely equates to unit leader positions in other sections of the organization. The duties, responsibilities, and complexity of the job; the span of control; the supervisory and management requirements; and resulting training needs are all more representative of the unit leader level. In addition, the complexity of the helibase manager course will necessitate that it be presented at the State or Regional level or equivalent. Due to these factors, the development group recommended that the helicopter manager course be renumbered as S-371 and that suggested training for the helicopter manager position include 300 level courses in management and supervision and ICS.

RECOMMENDATION:

The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group agrees with the recommendation of the development group that:

1. The number of the Helibase Manager course should be changed from S-271 to S-371 to more accurately represent the organizational placement of the position, the complexity of the job requirements, and the level of presentation required for the course.
2. The following courses should be added to suggested training for the HEB2 position to meet the higher level management training needs:

Leadership and Organization Development S-301
Intermediate ICS I-300

Approval of the Training and ICS Working Teams is needed by May 15, 1995, so that development can continue without interruption.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Upon approval of this recommendation, the NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group will instruct the development group to develop the Helibase Manager course as S-371 and to consider S-301 and I-300 as suggested training for the position.
2. The ICS Working Team will need to make appropriate changes to the qualification system during the revision of 310-1.

APPROVED:

Deborah V. M. [Signature]
Chairman, Training Working Team

John Hillman
Chairman, ICS Working Team

1/29/96
Date

1-29-96
Date

CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 12
--FELLING BOSS TRAINING--

BACKGROUND

Felling Boss, S-235 is suggested training for the felling boss position. Prior to qualification as a felling boss, the individual also must complete Crew Boss (Single Resource) S-230 and be qualified as an advanced firefighter/squad boss (FFT1). Power Saws S-212 is among the training courses suggested for the FFT1 position.

Development of the S-235 course was initiated in FY 94. When the project leader left in August, 1995, the course was nearly completed, having gone through two test courses and a review. At that time, the project was handed off to another project leader for completion.

CURRENT STATUS

Our second project leader is much more experienced in course development. Upon review of the materials, he determined that instruction in S-235 was duplicating instruction in S-230 and S-212. He also determined that the instruction in S-230 and S-212 fully supported the tasks for the felling boss position. This was discussed with the subject matter specialists who had been assigned to the project. All agreed that all training necessary for the felling boss already existed in the S-212 and S-230 courses. The development group then made a recommendation (see attached memo) that S-235 be dropped from the curriculum.

RECOMMENDATION

The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group agrees with the recommendations of the development group that:

1. Felling Boss S-235 be dropped from the curriculum
2. When revised, the Wildland Fire Qualification Subsystem Guide be changed to require Power Saws S-212 or equivalent training OR be certified as a feller by their agency.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

Upon approval of this recommendation:

1. The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group will stop further development and certification of the S-235 course. Materials will be retained on file for possible future use and copies will be made available upon request. The enhanced internal review process implemented

by the group last Spring will help to catch any future problems of this sort earlier in the development cycle.

2. The ICS Working Team will need to make appropriate changes to the qualifications system during the revision of 310-1.

APPROVED:

George H. Martin
Chairman, Training Working Team

John Philbin
Chairman, ICS Working Team

1-29-96
Date

1-29-96
Date